



## **Important Pharmacy Information: End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) May 11, 2023**

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government declared a public health emergency (PHE) and relaxed certain requirements to ensure Medicaid members could continue to access healthcare services. The federal government has declared that the PHE will end on May 11, 2023.

This document provides an overview of pharmacy-related updates regarding what is changing or not changing after May 11, 2023.

### **Flexibility and Coverage Terminations Effective May 12, 2023**

- **Early Refills**
  - The use of submission clarification code (SCC) **13** as an acceptable override during the PHE will no longer be effective to override a claim at the pharmacy level. Early refill requests can be made by calling the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Helpdesk at **1-888-420-9711**.
  - **Reminder:** MaineCare policy may not pay for early refills for vacation, lost, stolen, or destroyed medications.
- **MaineRx Coverage for the Uninsured**
  - MaineRx coverage will return to the pre-PHE benefit coverage rules. MaineRx coverage of COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination services for uninsured individuals ends on May 11, 2023.
    - ✓ Retroactive billing of COVID-19 at home tests kits and COVID-19 vaccination will not be allowed through MEPOPS.
    - ✓ If retroactive billing is necessary to accommodate retroactive eligibility granted prior to May 12, 2023, please contact the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Help Desk at **1-888-420-9711**.
    - ✓ See MaineCare's general [provider guidance](#) and [member guidance](#) for this coverage group for more information.
- **COVID-19 Test Specimen Collection**
  - MaineCare will not cover specimen collection through the pharmacy point of sale, and the use of the following National Drug Code (NDC) will end on May 11, 2023.
    - ✓ 99999-0992-11 (Emergency Use Product Service Identifier)
  - Billing for pharmacy specimen collection will discontinue under section 80. Pharmacies enrolled under Section 55 may continue to bill for the service through Section 55.

## Flexibilities and Coverage Continuing after May 11, 2023

In accordance with provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act, MaineCare will continue to cover COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccine, and vaccine administration without cost sharing for MaineCare members through at least September 30, 2024.

- **Copays**
  - MaineCare will continue to waive copays for Section 80 Pharmacy Services through September 30, 2024. Please see this [guidance document about copays](#) for more information.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine and Administration Coverage**
  - Pharmacies may continue to submit claims for reimbursement for COVID-19 vaccines and their administration. The vaccine administration reimbursement rate will be set at 100% of the Medicare regional rate.
  - Please note that MaineCare will not reimburse for vaccine administration costs included in other contracts or agreements.
- **COVID-19 Test Coverage**
  - COVID-19 at-home test kits must be billed through MEPOPS. ○ Please use the Standing Order NPI number 1023303708 as the prescriber NPI on the claim. The [Standing Order](#) provides the authority for licensed pharmacists to prescribe COVID-19 tests to MaineCare members and can be found on the [COVID-19 and End of the PHE webpage](#).
  - Quantity limits are eight tests per month.
  - Please bill serial tests as a QTY of two and non-serial tests as QTY of one.

For questions, please contact the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Help Desk at **1-888-420-9711**. MaineCare providers can also send inquiries via email to [PBA\\_helpdesk@changehealthcare.com](mailto:PBA_helpdesk@changehealthcare.com).

